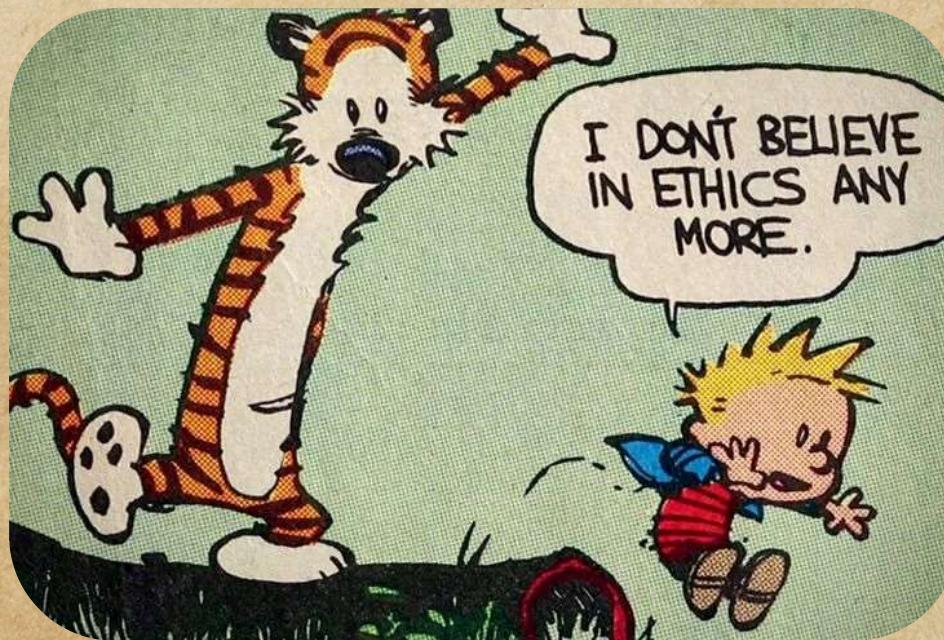


# Ethics

Introduction to Normative Ethics



# Curriculum

**D1.** Understanding Ethics: demonstrate an understanding of the main questions in ethics, and of the positions of major philosophers and schools of philosophy with respect to some of these questions

- **D1.1** demonstrate an understanding (e.g., in class discussions, debates, presentations, written work) of some of the main questions in ethics
- **D1.2** summarize the positions of various major philosophers

# Learning Goals & Success Criteria

## We are learning to...

- Summarize and explain the major areas in ethics
- Explain the different moral theories
- Defend views using moral theories

## I can...

- List the 3 categories of moral philosophy
- Explain the 4 major types of moral theories
- Use the theories in class to defend my opinion



# 3 Major Sections

- **Metaethics**

- “What is morality, and where does it come from?”
- Emergence of human values, motivation, and reasoning.

- **Normative ethics**

- “How should I act?”

- **Applied ethics**

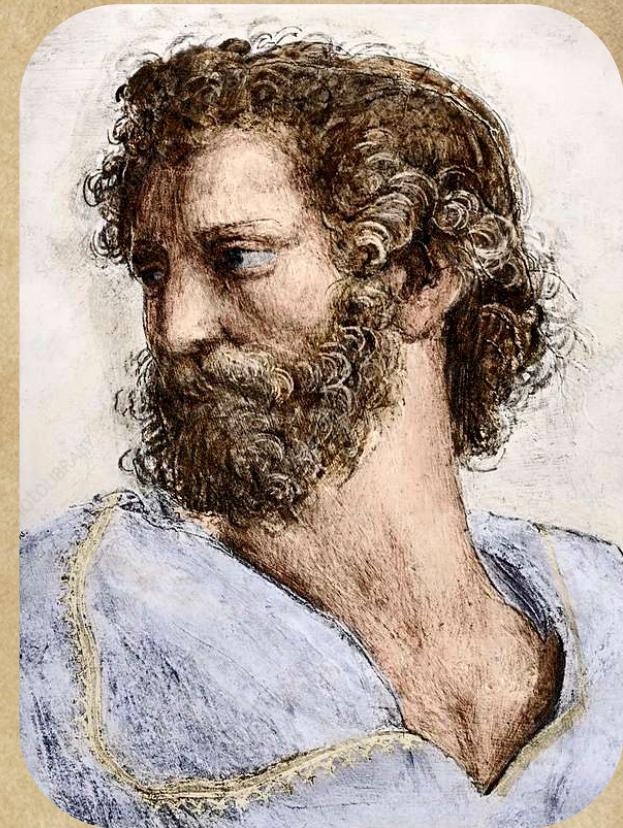
- Apply moral considerations into real-life controversial subjects
- Specific actions and practices from the point of moral acceptance.

# 4 General Categories

- **Deontology**
  - Rules determine what is right/wrong
- **Utilitarianism**
  - Whichever decision benefits the most people is right
- **Rights**
  - What is morally right is what upholds the rights of people
  - Established in a society by law or given from one individual to another
- **Virtue Ethics**
  - A person's moral character (not actions) determines what is right
  - An individual's reputation, motivation, and ethics play a crucial role.

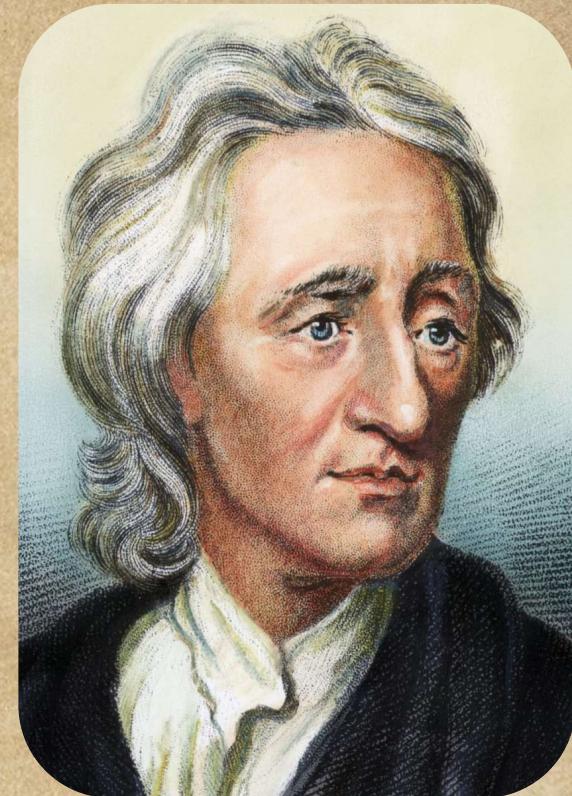
# VIRTUE

- Ethical behaviour is measured by trait-based characteristics
  - Honesty
  - Courage
  - Wisdom
- Not based on consequences or duties they must obey
- If you are a good person, with good virtues, then you are acting ethically, regardless of what you choose to do



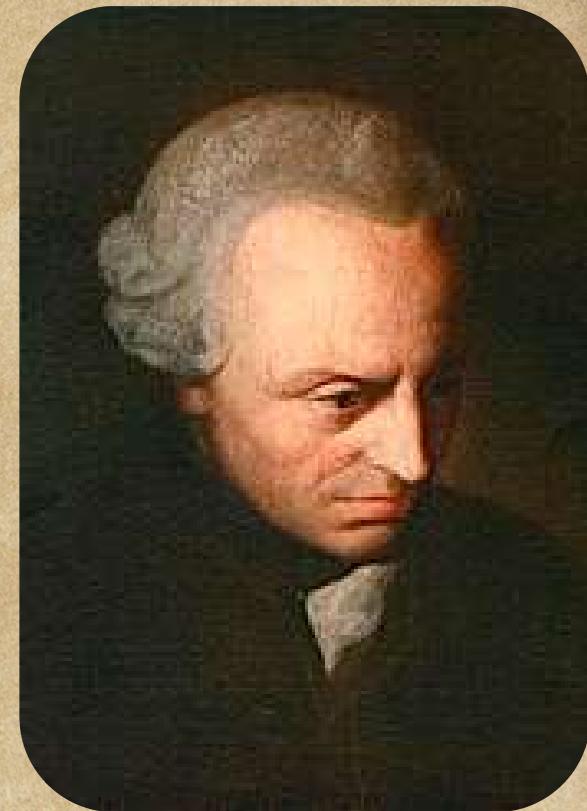
# RIGHTS

- Rights established by a society are protected and given the highest priority
- Ethically correct and valid because a large population endorses them
- How do we determine what are universal rights?
  - Who has the right?
  - What actions/states/objects does the right cover/relate to?
  - Why does the individual have the right?
  - How that right can be affected by an individual's action?



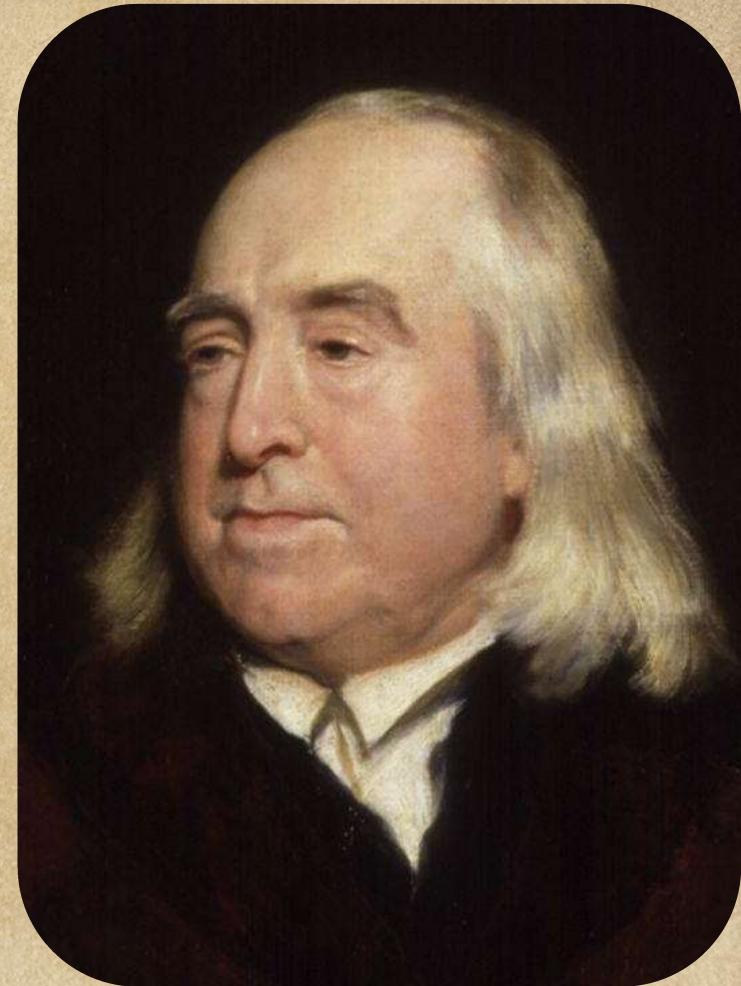
# DEONTOLOGY

- The moral rightness of an action is based by the inherent “goodness” of an action
- The consequence/result does not matter – if the action was morally right, it should always be done
- Lying is wrong, so you should **never** lie, even if it would make someone upset/lead to a negative outcome



# UTILITARIANISM

- The consequences are what determine if an action was right or wrong
- We want to yield the greatest benefit to the most people
- Determined on a case-to-case basis
- Most popular theory in daily life/modern society

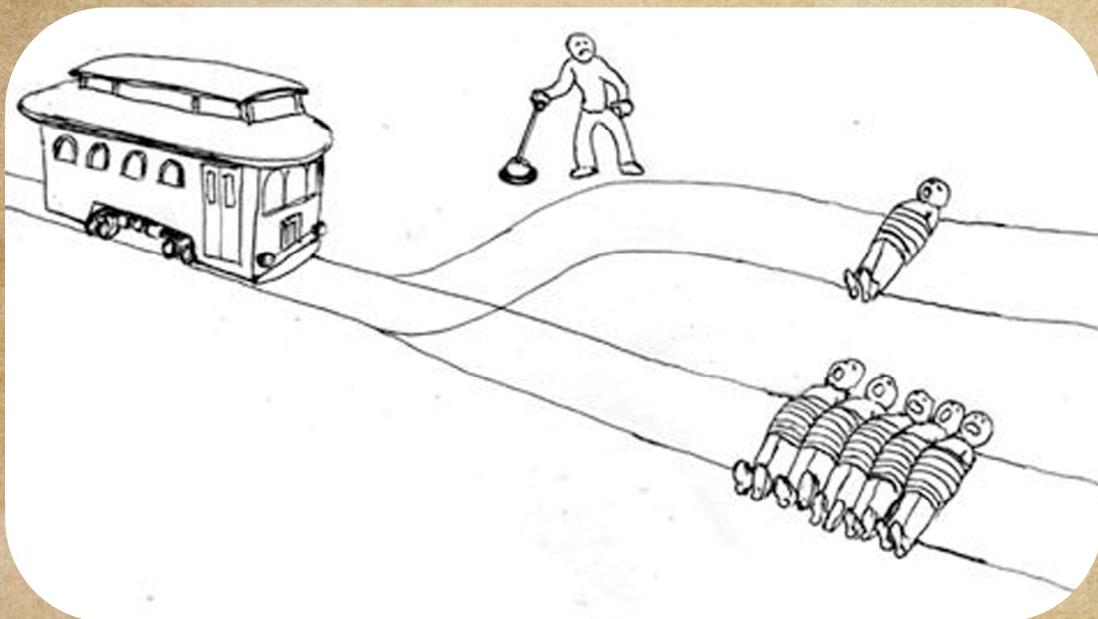


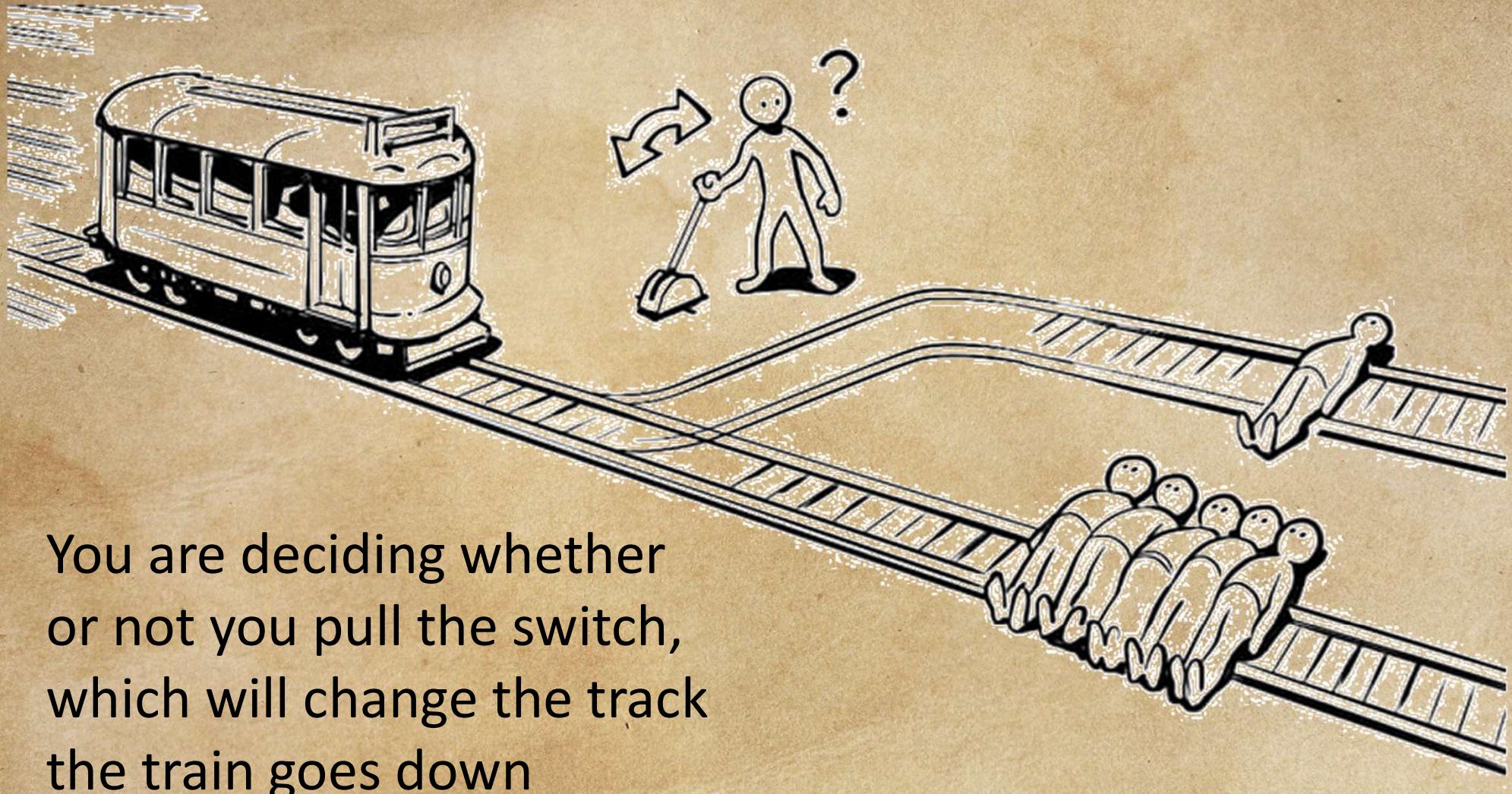
# Discussion Ground Rules

1. Listen respectfully, without interrupting.
2. Criticize ideas, not individuals.
3. Avoid blame, speculation, and inflammatory language.
4. Allow everyone the chance to speak.
5. Avoid assumptions about any member of the class or generalizations about social groups

# Let's put those theories to the test!

Philippa Foot & The Trolley Problem

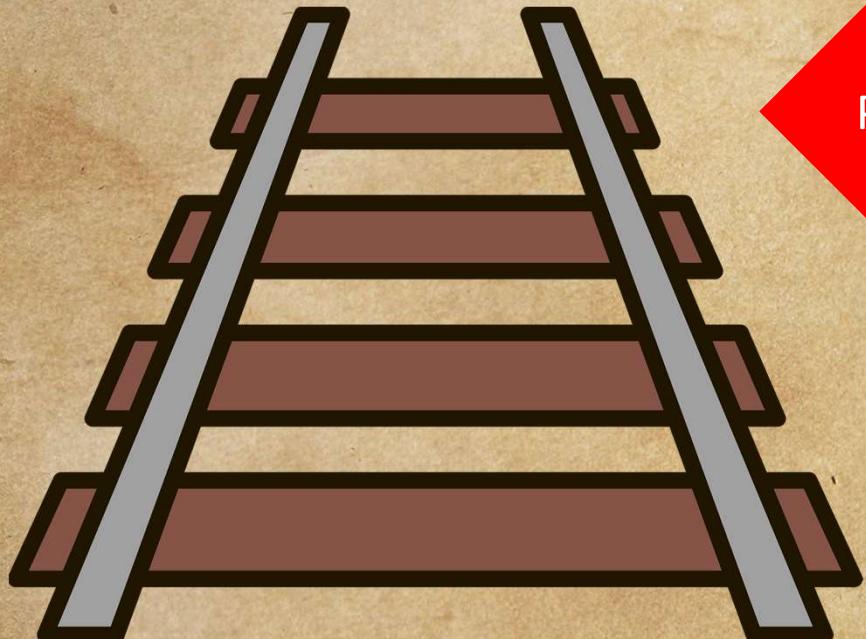




You are deciding whether or not you pull the switch, which will change the track the train goes down



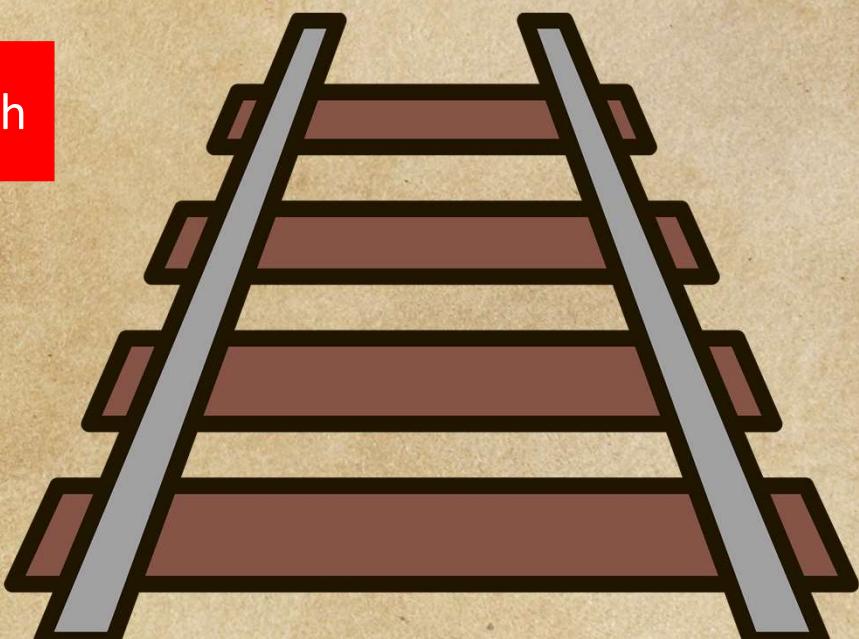
1 person



Pull the switch

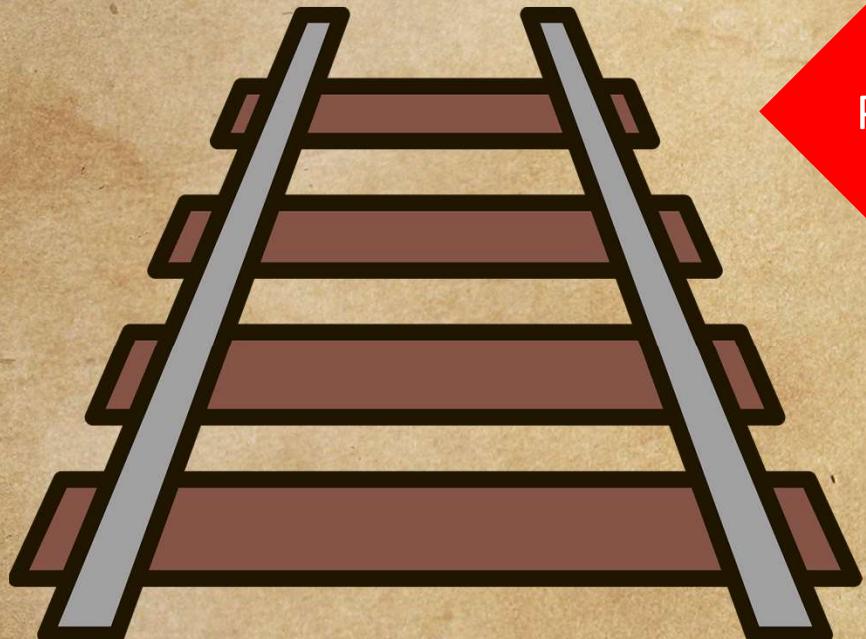


5 people





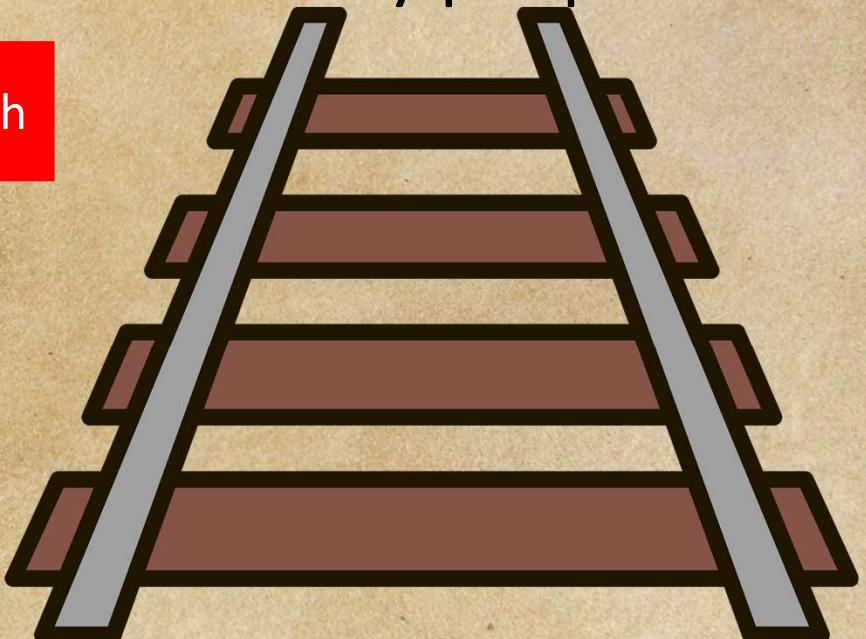
1 healthy  
baby

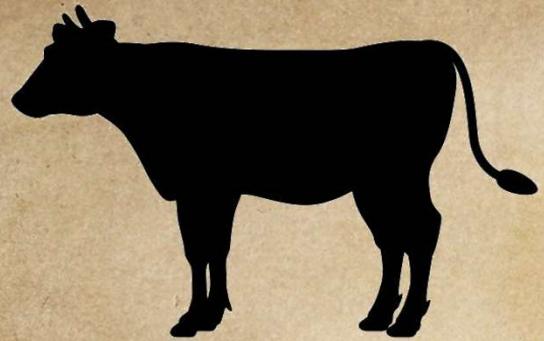


Pull the switch

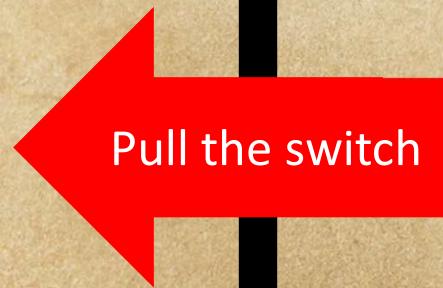
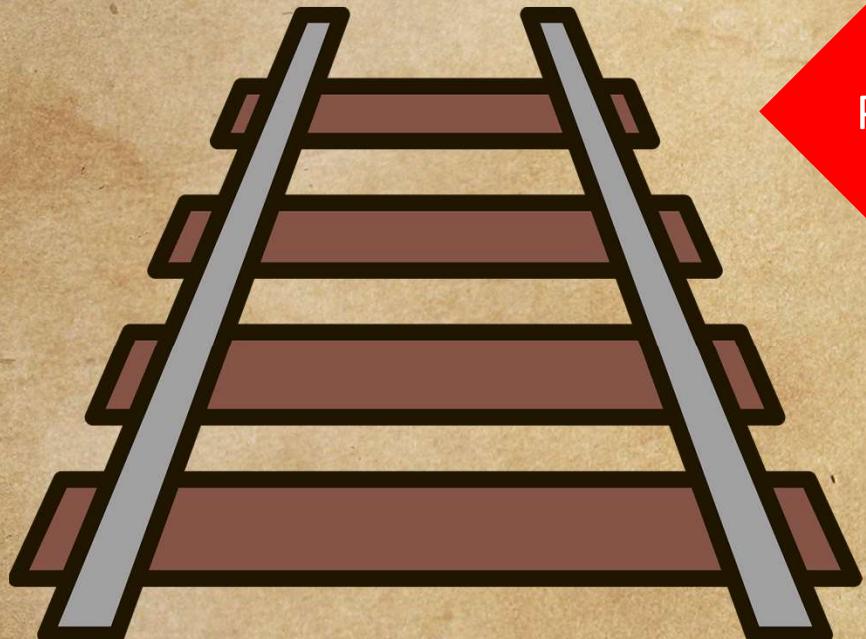


5 healthy  
elderly people





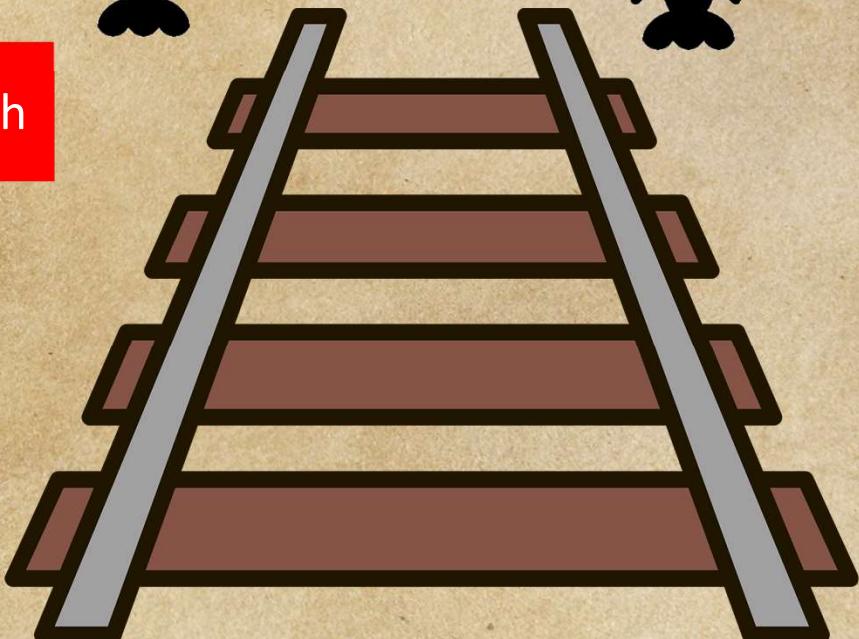
1 cow



Pull the switch

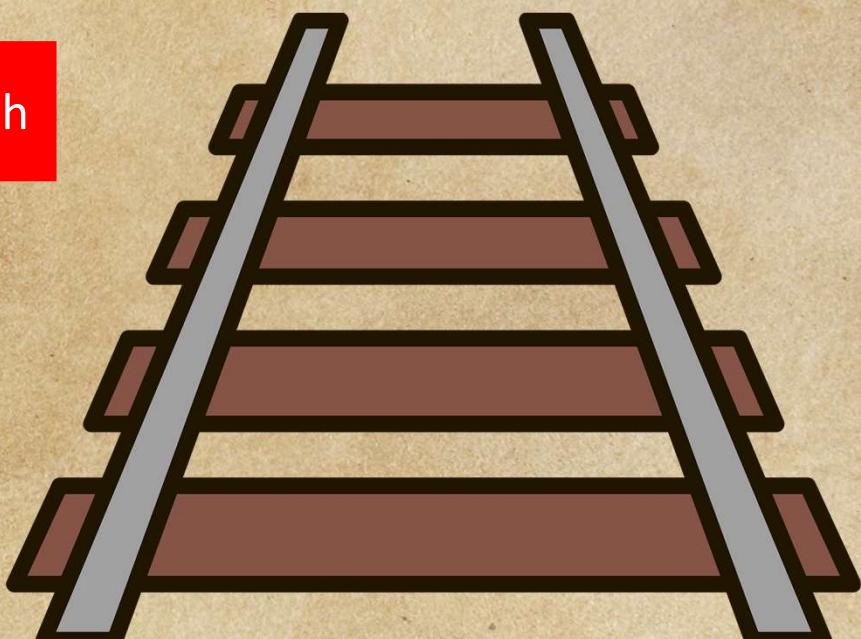
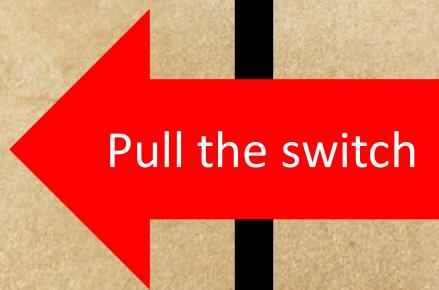
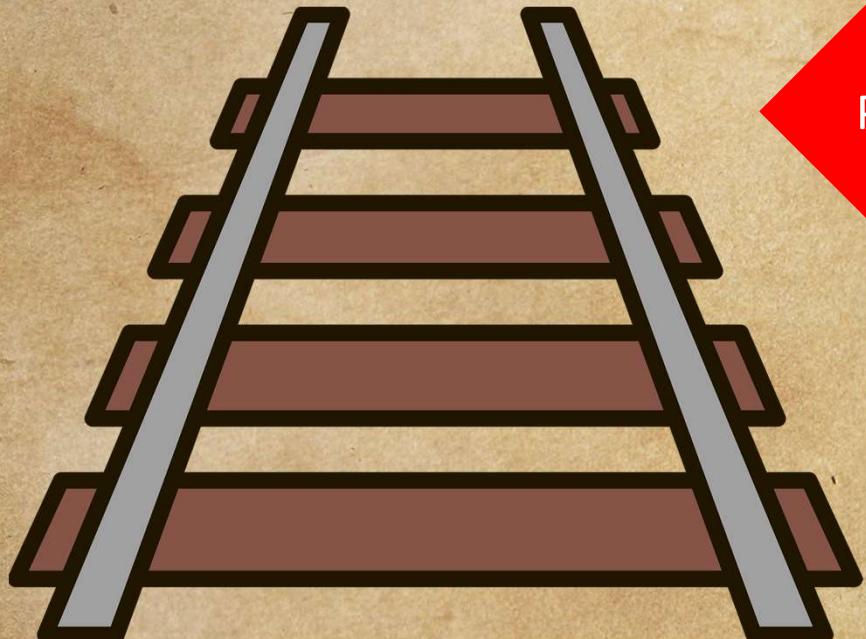


5 lobsters





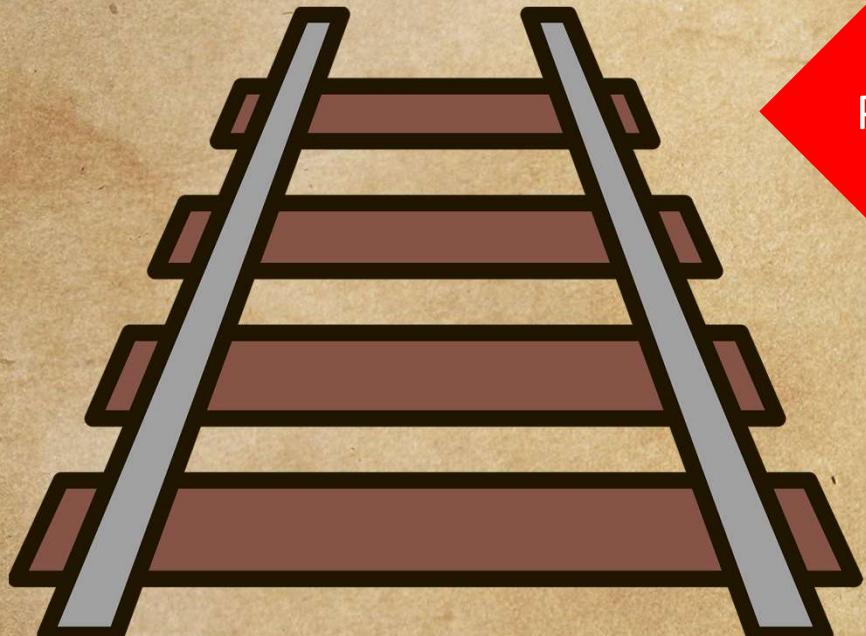
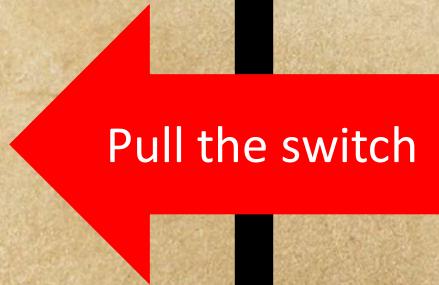
1 person



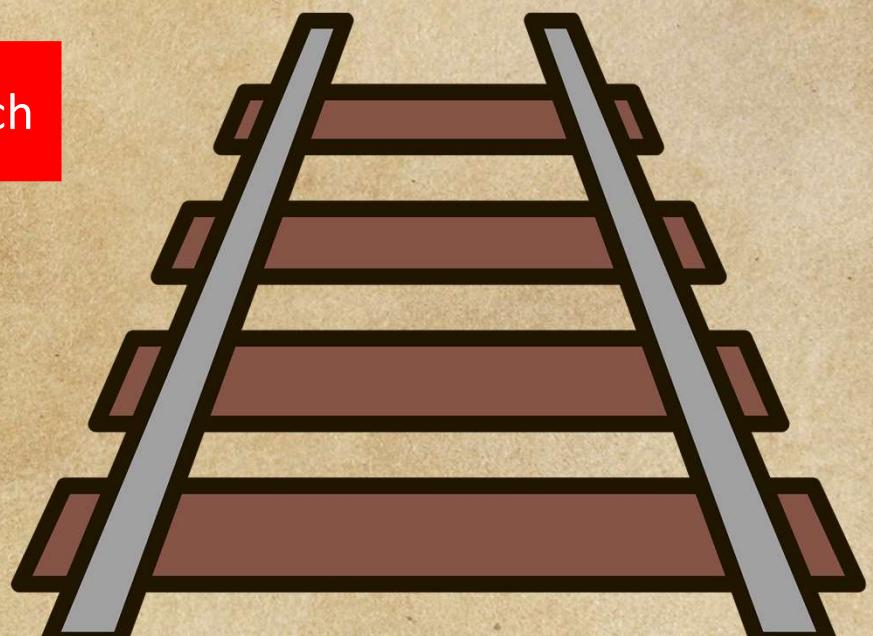
1 rich person offering you an untraceable \$5,000,000 to pull the switch

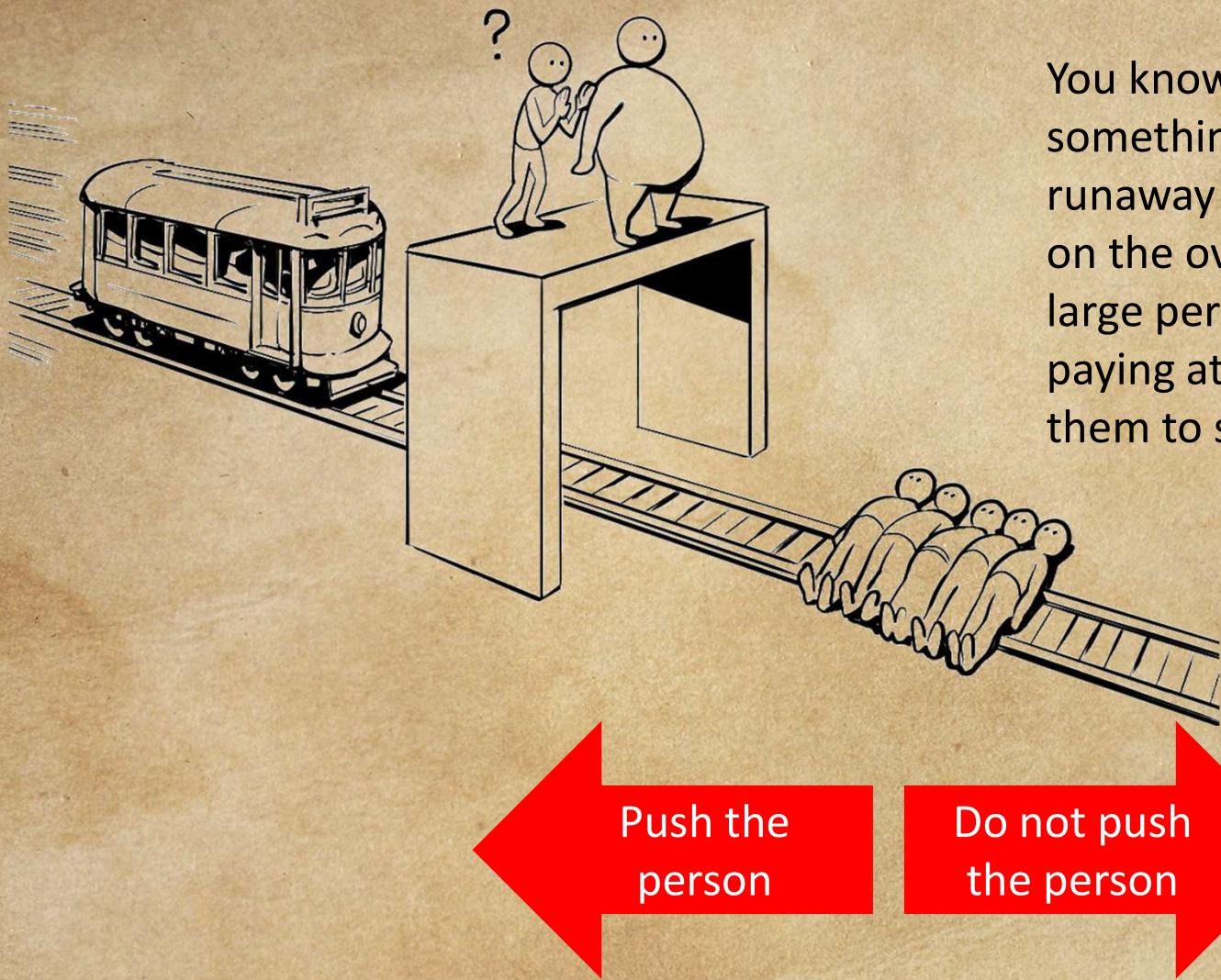


1 rich person  
offering you an  
untraceable  
\$5,000,000 to NOT  
pull the switch



2 people





You know for a fact that if you put something heavy in front of the runaway train, it will stop. You are on the overpass, and there is a large person beside you, not paying attention. Do you push them to stop the train?

# How is this relevant in real life?

